

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 06372 181212Z

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ACTION SS-15

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /026 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 1199

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 6372

TO EAGLEBURGER AND CONNOLLY FROM SEELYE

E.O9 11652: GDS

TAGS: APER, AEMR, LE

SUBJECT: BEIRUT STAFFING

1. AS YOU KNOW WITH THE STAFF IN BEIRUT CUT TO 14 AMERICANS, WE WILL BE OPERATING WITH VIRTUALLY NO BACK STOPPING CAPABILITY IN MANY KEY AREAS. IN ADDITION, THERE ARE CERTAIN FUNCTIONS WHICH SHOULD BE RE-ESTABLISHED HERE AT THE EARLIEST PRACTICABLE TIME. IN ORDER TO HAVE SOME CAPABLE RELIEF AVAILABLE AND TO BE ABLE, AT THE APPROPRIATE TIME, TO RE-ESTABLISH KEY FUNCTIONS, I PROPOSE THAT CERTAIN MEMBERS OF THE BEIRUT STAFF SHOULD BE KETP IN THE AREA FOR THE TIME BEING. THE STAFF MEMBERS IN THIS CATEGORY HAVE EXPERIENCE IN BEIRUT AND ALL HAVE DISPLAYED THE TOUGHNESS AND DEDICATION NEEDED TO WORK IN A HARDSHIP

ENVIRONMENT. NONE OF THEM WANT TO LEAVE BUT IT IS NECESSARY FOR THEM TO DO SO. I STRONGLY RECOMMEND THE FOLLOWING:

2. CONSULAR SECTION - AS RECOMMENDED IN BEIRUT'S 6315, WE BELIEVE THAT CONSULAR OFFICERS BUDEIT, STAPLETONLAND RUSSELL SHOULD REMAIN IN ATHENS WITH 2 BEIRUT LOCAL EMPLOYEES TO HANDLE VISA PROBLEMS FOR LEBANESE VISA MATTERS. WHEN IT IS POSSIBLE TO RE-ESTABLISH A CONSULAR OPERATION IN BEIRUT, THESE OFFICERS SHOULD BE RETURNED IMMEDIATELY.

3. SECRETARIAL - LORRAINE SHULTZ AND MRS. GERALDINE O'BRIEN ARE BOTH EXCELLENT SECRETARIES WHO VOLUNTEERED FOR DUTY IN BEIRUT. MRS. SHULTZ HAS PERFORMED EXCEPTIONALLY WELL AS
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PAGE 02 BEIRUT 06372 181212Z

THE SECRETARY TO THE DCM SINCE APRIL AND MRS. O'BRIEN HAS,

IN THE SHORT TIME SHE HHTDC
TTLHERE, WORKED IN BOTH THE
ADMINISTRATIVE AND POLITICAL SECTIONS. WE WILL NEED TDY SUPPORT FOR
THE SECRETARY REMAINING IN BEIRUT AND WHEN CONDITIONS ALLOW,
BOTH OF THESE SECRETARIES SHOULD BE RETURNED. WE PROPOSE THAT MRS.
O'BRIEN BE RETAINED IN ATHENS AND MRS. SHULTZ GO TO EITHER
DAMASCUS OR AMMAN FOR TEMPORARY DUTY. THIS WOULD GIVE US
THE FLEXIBILITY TO GET ONE OF THEM BACK QUICKLY DEPENDING UPON
AVAILABILITY OF THE OVERLAND ROUTE OR FROM ATHENS BY AIR.

4. MRS. LILLIAN WATERMAN HAS BEEN ONE OF THE MOST USEFUL
OFFICERS ON THE STAFF. SHE HAS COVERED A VARIETY OF ECONOMIC
AND POLITICAL MATTERS AND, MOST IMPORTANTLY, HAS BEEN THE
OFFICER COVERING THE IMPORTANT HOSPITAL SUPPLY OPERATION.
WE WOULD LIKE TO KEEP HER BUT THE NUMBERS WILL JUST NOT ALLOW
IT BUT WE RECOGNIZE THAT AS SOON AS THE STAFF CAN BE INCREASED,
SHE SHOULD BE RETURNED SOONEST TO COVER THE IMPORTANT
ACTIVITIES DESCRIBED ABOVE. WE RECOMMEND THAT SHE BE RETAINED
IN DAMASCUS TO ASSIST THAT POST WITH AUH SUPPLY PROBLEMS
AND BE KEPT AVAILABLE TO RETURN TO BEIRUT AS SOON AS IT IS POSSIBLE
TO BRING HER BACK.

5. COMMUNICATIONS - WE ARE KEEPING JOHN DAVIS AS THE SOLE
C&R OFFICER. WE HOPE THAT BRYON HALLMAN CAN BE RETURNED TO
DAMASCUS ON COMPLETION OF VISITATION LEAVE IN THE US. WHEN THE
SITUATION ALLOWS, WE WOULD PROPOSE THE HALLMAN WOULD RETURN TO
BEIRUT AND DAVIS WOULD BE HELD WITHIN THE AREA FOR TDY RELIEF
IN BEIRUT.

6. MARINE SECURITY GUARDS - THE MSG DETACHMENT WILL BE
REDUCED TO 4 WATCH STANDERS. EACH MSG WILL WORK A MINIMUM
OF 6 DAYS A WEEK. HOPEFULLY THIS IS A TEMPORARY SITUATION AND
THE DETACHMENT CAN BE BUILT BACK TO THE REQUIRED LEVEL BUT
CONSIDERING CONTINGENCY PLANNING, WE PROPOSE THE FOLLOWING
ACTIONS:

- A. DESIGNATE THE BEIRUT DETACHMENT TO BE A SUB-DETACHMENT
TO EITHER THE MSG DETAIL IN DAMASCUS OR ATHENS.
- B. ROTATE MSG'S OUT OF BEIRUT ON A 30 TO 60 DAY BASIS
DEPENDING UPON AVAILABILITY OF TRANSPORTATION.
- C. EACH MSG, UPON COMPLETION TOUR, SHOULD BE GIVEN A
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PAGE 03 BEIRUT 06372 181212Z

MINIMUM OF 10 DAYS R&R DEPENDING UPON LENGTH OF TOUR.
THE MARINES WHO LEAVE IN THE FORTHCOMING EVACUATION SHOULD
BE UTILIZED ON A TEMPORARY BASIS WITHIN THE AREA SO THAT AS
MANY AS POSSIBLE WILL BE ABLE TO RETURN TO BEIRUT WHEN
CIRCUMSTANCES PERMIT.

7. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE INFORM US AS SOON AS POSSIBLE
OF YOUR APPROVAL OF THESE RECOMMENDATIONS SO THAT SHULTZ,

WATERMAN AND POSSIBLY SOME OF THE MARINES CAN BE HELD IN
DAMASCUS AND NOT PROCEED TO ATHENS..
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BEIRUT06372
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760276-0898
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760746/aaaabopm.tel
Line Count: 118
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 APR 2004 by CollinP0>; APPROVED <19 AUG 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BEIRUT STAFFING
TAGS: APER, AEMR, LE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006